



# NEWS RELEASE

**Matthew D. Orwig**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: June 13, 2006

*Contact: Davilyn Brackin*  
*Public Information Officer*  
*(409) 839-2538 office*  
*(409) 553-9881 cell*

## **OPERATION ICEBOX DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY**

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced that two additional defendants from a Tyler area drug ring have pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **SAM LEAL**, 37 of Tyler, and **JOHN CARROLL**, 25 OF Miami, Florida, admitted in court to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine before United States Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie today.

U.S. Attorney Orwig praised the work of investigators on this case, "Operation Icebox is a prime example of the success of the combined efforts of our federal, state and local law enforcement to work together and rid our communities of those who sell poison to our children," said U.S. Attorney Orwig.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in October 2004 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in east Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. During this time, the investigation resulted in 22 undercover drug purchases, the purchase and seizure of at least 15 handguns and the seizure of at least four pounds of "ice" methamphetamine and small amounts of marijuana and pharmaceutical drugs, and the seizure of three vehicles and a safe containing approximately \$300,000 cash. A 26-count federal indictment was returned in March charging 20 defendants with

federal charges.

Leal and Carroll each face up to life in federal prison and a fine of up to \$4 million at sentencing. They have also agreed to forfeiture and a \$100,000 judgment. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the United States Marshals Service, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Office, and the Henderson Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William Baldwin and Mary Ann Cozby.

###